ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (REVISED)

An axial flow rotary valve rotatable within a bore in a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine has a port extending from a peripheral opening to an axial opening at one end of the valve. The peripheral opening, which periodically communicates with a combustion chamber through a window in the bore, has a first trailing edge. The window has a second trailing edge. The port closes from the combustion chamber as the first trailing edge passes the second trailing edge. The edges are disposed such that the instantaneous intersection point of the two edges progressively moves away from the axial opening over at least 50% of the length of the window as the port closes.